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VELNOS, J. J. V. de



DISSERTATION

ON A NEW

Antivenereal Vegetable Remedy.

(Price One Shilling and Sixpence.)



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DISSERTATION
ON A NEW
ANTIVENEREAL
VEGETABLE
REMEDY,
INTITLED
M. DE VELNOS' Antivenereal
VEGETABLE SYRUP.

Translated from the FRENCH.

By J. BURROWS, M. D.

Sane dolendum est plantarum naturam nondum magis exploratò nobis innotescere, quæ mihi videntur reliquæ omni, quâ patet, materiæ medicæ palmam præripere, et quæ inveniendorum (specificorum) remediorum uberimam nobis spem faciunt.

SYDENHAM, Præf. pag. 25.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.
MDCCLXIX.

DISSERTATION

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T H E

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN any thing is proposed to the public, which essentially interests its welfare, they have an undoubted right to demand, not only the reasons and causes of its being offered them, but the grounds upon which those reasons and causes are founded.

With respect to the New Antivenereal Vegetable Remedy. which is in my sole possession, and which I now propose to make public, I think myself justly liable to the same demand, and shall therefore briefly state the motives which determined me to introduce this medicine into England, and shew its peculiar properties and effects ; in order that
every

every person may judge concerning it without partiality, and according to rational and fundamental principles.

Although undertakings of this kind are ever liable to censure, from that prejudice which is generally conceived against novelty, and consequently subject to the imputation of Quackery ; I can venture to affirm, that my design is well founded, and that the remedy which I offer is confirmed by such authentic testimonies, as will not only exempt me from censure, but remove every obstacle to its success.

My attachment to this medicine is not the result of a superficial enquiry ; nor could a partial examination into its merit sufficiently convince me of its being worthy to be introduced into my native country.

To demonstrate the propriety of my resolution, I could cite a great number of cures which are not inserted in this

this work, and exhibit a pompous detail of effects of which I was an eye-witness at Paris ; but as my simple assertion might incur suspicion, the public being, with much reason, guarded against declarations void of positive proof, I shall give such incontestible evidence, as must amply satisfy every person who is open to rational conviction.

It is well known, that the *Commission Royale de Medecine*, or Royal Committee of Physicians at Paris, will neither adopt nor permit the publication of any remedy, till they have most minutely examined its effects, and analysed its composition. Now it is on the approbation of this respectable body of censors, that I ground my assurance of the virtue of this medicine, and deem myself authorized to claim the attention of the public.

Many years labour and observation at length discovered, and brought to perfection the Antivenereal Vegetable Syrup, which Monsieur de Velnos has administered with uncommon success in the
most

most inveterate degrees of the venereal disease. This remedy is the only one, amongst the different preparations hitherto made known, whose vegetable quality is confirmed and authenticated. It has been submitted to the examination and judgment of the Royal Committee of physicians: This impartial and learned body, which readily embraces every proposal that may contribute to the relief and preservation of the human species, appointed several celebrated physicians particularly to observe the manner of operation, effects, and success of the Antivenereal Syrup. Proof was repeatedly made of it during two years, under the immediate inspection of the commissioners, and several other physicians of Paris; its success was so extraordinary, especially in the most desperate cases, that in consequence of the report made by the commissioners, confirming the same, together with a great number of certificates of cures which were deemed most surprizing, there was delivered to Monsieur de Velnos, by the Royal Committee, a patent, which gratified him

him to the height of his wishes, as it at once confirmed the efficacy of his Antivenereal Syrup, and its peculiar vegetable quality, in such strong and indisputable terms as to frustrate all the efforts of envy or prejudice.

I shall not enter into a long recital of the names of those practitioners who were witnesses of its effects : I shall therefore only quote the report made by Mons. Petit, first physician to his serene highness the duke of Orleans, as contained in his letter to Mons. Senac, first physician to the king.

“ In consequence of eighteen months
 “ minute observation made by me, on
 “ the effects of Mons. de Velnos’ re-
 “ medy, I am well assured, that this
 “ medicine deserves to be recommended
 “ on your part. I have been eye-
 “ witness to patients on whom phy-
 “ cians had tried, in different courses,
 “ the most efficacious mercurial pre-
 “ parations without success, who have,

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“ after

“ after all, been radically cured by this
 “ remedy.

“ I have likewise seen some instan-
 “ ces, where the venereal cause has
 “ been complicated, of persons radi-
 “ cally cured, after having sought re-
 “ lief from all other medicines in vain.
 “ This is the testimony I can confident-
 “ ly report from my own personal obser-
 “ vation.”

I am inclined to think, that no person can suspect the integrity of so celebrated, and, in every degree, so respectable a character, both as a man and a physician, as that of Mons. Petit; however, if it be possible for prejudice and incredulity to arise to such a pitch, surely the evidence of the Royal Committee must be deemed incontestable.

The Patent is expressed in the following terms :

“ UPON

“ U P O N the examination we have
 “ made into the composition of the
 “ Antivenereal Vegetable Remedy, com-
 “ municated to us by the Sieur de Vel-
 “ nos, *in which there is not the least*
 “ *particle of a mercurial preparation,**
 “ and likewise a great number of cer-
 “ tificates of persons of the profession,
 “ and especially those of Mons. Petit,
 “ first physician to his serene highness
 “ the duke of Orleans, and several
 “ others, who have attended the treat-
 “ ment of a great number of persons of
 “ both sexes infected with the venereal
 “ disease, attesting the cures performed
 “ by the aforesaid remedy.

“ W E, in consideration of its efficacy
 “ against all degrees of the venereal
 “ disease, permit the said Sieur de Vel-
 “ nos to compose, administer, vend, and

* A quality which can, with truth and justice, be
 attributed to no other remedy in the same disease.

“ disperse the said remedy in Paris and
 “ throughout the kingdom, &c. &c.

“ *Signed* S E N A C, *first physician*
 “ *to the king, and counsellor in*
 “ *ordinary to his Most Christian*
 “ *Majesty, in his councils of state*
 “ *as well as in his privy coun-*
 “ *cils.*”

If, after such authenticated testimonials there can remain a doubt, surely scepticism must universally prevail amongst mankind.* Amongst the physicians and surgeons who have attested the cures specified in this work, and given their certificates duly authenti-

* By virtue of the very constitution of the Royal Committee of Physic, established in Paris, it is impossible that any spurious medicine can be imposed on the public; as patents or licences are not there granted on the mere presentation of a nostrum, or from any interested motive; but in consequence of the nicest scrutiny into the composition and effects of the medicine proposed for examination, and the strongest proofs of its efficacy,

cated

cated by two notaries public, and signed by his Britannic Majesty's ambassador, of which I can produce the originals, we may name M. BERCHER, senior of the college of physicians ; LEPY, PETIT, first physician to his serene highness the duke of Orleans ; DUBOURG, ANTHONY PETIT, PARIS, GAUTIER QUERENET, professors of physic ; POISONIER, DESPERIERES, physicians in ordinary to the king ; NININ, first physician to the prince of Clermont ; FAURE DE BEAUFORT, physician in ordinary to the king ; MOREAU, principal surgeon of the Hotel Dieu in Paris ; BOURGEOIS, CASSING, eminent surgeons at Paris, &c. &c.

I presume that the unanimous declaration of so many persons of eminence, concerning the efficacy of M. de Velnos' remedy, is more than sufficient to justify my resolution of introducing it into England. It is with the utmost assurance of its virtue that I now propose it to the public ; fully convinced, that it deserves their attention and encouragement, especially

cially with respect to its vegetable quality ; for it is too well known, that mercurials, though of service in many cases, are rarely administered without injuring the constitution, either through want of prudence in the patient, skill in the practitioner, or care and experience in the preparation of the medicine.

The superior efficacy of the Antivenereal Vegetable Syrup can only be proved by trial, on which I rely for public demonstration of its salutary qualities. I flatter myself, that this remedy will amply compensate the pains I have taken to convince myself of its power, as well as justify my resolution of using it in practice.

With respect to the faculty, to whom I owe all due deference, they are at full liberty to examine into the validity of what I have advanced ; and the identity of the remedy, I presume, will be proved by its efficacy, which will be encouraged by the public, I doubt not, in proportion

tion as it is known. The certificates shall be open for revifal, and efpecially for the fatisfaction of thofe whose more immediate concern it may be to examine into the reality of the facts thereby attested.* In fhort, I publicly invite all perfons whatfoever to enquire int the truth of thefe my affertions ; nor will I fpare any pains to give them full fatisfaction, as well as to merit the efteem of the generous and worthy, which is the greateft recompence well-dispofed minds can deferve or defire.

* To remove every ground of doubt and fufpicion refpecting the identity of the medicine here publifhed, with that of the Sieur de Velnos, which has been adminiftered with univerfal fuccefs in France, I am ready to produce, under the hands of that gentleman, fuch testimonials as cannot be difputed.

then as it is known. The conclusion
shall be upon the result, and especially
for the resolution of these whole mass
unavoidable moment it ought to be
into the reality of the facts thereby
which. In short, I would make all
action whatever to require in the
truth of their my attention; not with
from my frame to give them full satis-
faction, as well as to meet the object
of the persons and not the which which
but with my own will which would
and desire to be done.

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DISSERTATION

O N A

New Antivenereal Vegetable Remedy.

THERE is no opinion so false and destitute of probability, but, if once adopted, may thro' the force of custom or prejudice, pass as an established maxim. Nothing has so much obstructed the progress of the sciences, as the blind and implicit deference which has been paid to the decisive opinions of the ancients. Under the sanction of these authorities the most dangerous conjectures have taken root, and supplanted the most confirmed and best grounded principles. Physic itself, considered as an art, will become useful or pernicious to mankind, in proportion to the skill of those who undertake to administer it, nor can it be exempted from the prevalence of false notions, or influence of ill grounded maxims. It has frequently been observed, that those cases which should have been guided by the light of experience alone, have been misconducted thro' the interposition of obstinacy and prejudice. Upon what grounds have they attributed to the healing art, almost as many specifics as there

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are diseases to encounter? It is because men of abilities have not laboured to purge that salutary science of the prejudices with which it is incumbered. Thanks to their endeavours, the number of these mysterious remedies has diminished; and if reasonings founded on experience have power to convince, mercury itself can no longer be deemed as specific, or the only remedy in venereal cases—If there be prejudices indifferent in their own nature, or even beneficial to man, it is not these errors which endanger his health and his life. Let us endeavour to explain those which derive their source from the application of mercury in the cure of venereal disorders, submitting it to the test of a succinct and impartial examination.

Scarce had the venereal disease been known in Europe, when a lucky incident proved the antivenereal virtue of mercury. It was readily embraced, though it was rather suspected than acknowledged as a remedy for a disease, which the public, at that time, considered as a scourge sent from heaven, or as a plague beyond the power of removal. While the success did not answer the expectation, the very remedy, which for a time brought relief to the afflicted, soon after threw them into the utmost consternation.

Mercury, that can never be used without danger, produced, in the hands of inexperienced persons, more shocking effects than those it was intended to remove; insomuch, that a great number of unfortunate victims to a new disease, expiring under the complicated rage of the remedy

medy and the disease, and a small number, dragging out a languishing life; the hopes both of physicians and persons infected now vanished, and the use of mercury was discontinued.

Many practitioners, much esteemed for their skill, decried it as a subtil poison, and represented those who dared to use it, to the public, as the enemies of mankind. When the discredit of mercury became thus general, other methods were introduced, which had been little practised till that time; but their want of efficacy being soon acknowledged, the use of mercury was established on its former footing; they used it with more precaution and with more success, for by diminishing the doses, they lessened the hazard of its application, and abated the violence of its effects on the diseased; so that, in all probability, a greater number perished through the distemper than the manner of treating it. At length, by degrees, the public became habituated to the use of this mineral; and, instead of a general aversion to it, implicitly relied on its effects.

Nothing is so difficult as to observe a due medium in points of opinion, hence they fell into a second error in casting off the first. The use of mercury had been deemed not only ineffectual but destructive; the study and labour of several years having thrown no new light on this subject, they returned to the same mineral, and a bigotted attachment to it, caused them in a short time to regard it, not only as an excellent remedy against the venereal disease, but as the only

one capable of curing it radically, or in other terms, as an absolute and exclusive specific.

Time and observation undeceived the faculty, but this error still remained with the public; and it will be of the more importance to refute it, because it tends to damp the emulation of artists, and to stifle in their birth, the most useful discoveries.

An opinion upon which depends the life and health of an infinite number of the members of society, ought not to be received, but upon the clearest demonstration of its validity, and if that is in the least degree defective, every one is justifiable not only in doubting, but absolutely renouncing it.

Now such is the too favourable opinion of the pretended absolute or exclusive efficacy of mercury, which, far from having that combination of proofs to establish it, is not supported but by one instance of experience, where the good and bad effects counterbalance, and by the prevalence of custom, through which the public have been insensibly led to use no antidotes against this terrible infection, but mercurial preparations.

But let us examine,

First, Whether this mineral is the only in nature, capable of eradicating the venereal virus? Whether the enquiries have been sufficiently numerous and various, as to conclude definitively from them, in favour of the exclusive antivenereal virtue of the same?

Secondly, Whether it has been generally acknowledged by physicians (the only judges in these

these matters) as an absolute specific in all stages of the venereal disease?

Thirdly, Has it proved so in effect?

I. At the first rise of the venereal disease, the faculty, as much alarmed at its novelty as at its malignity, attempted to encounter it with general remedies, such as they used against those of an epidemic, or contagious nature. This method of proceeding was wholly ineffectual. A short time after, the source of the disorder being more known, facilitated the acquisition of a remedy deemed more efficacious.

The Spaniard, who, as is generally believed, brought this distemper into Europe, likewise brought over the guiacum. It was used some time with tolerable success, but the China root, imported from the Indies by the Chinese merchants, in some degree lessened its credit. The estimation of this new remedy being of no long continuance, the guiacum was restored, and obtained greater vogue than before.

The Sarfaparilla and the Sassafras imported from America, tended to enhance the estimation of this salutiferous wood; the charms of novelty not being able to resist the evidence of trial and experience.

These different drugs had been imported by merchants or travellers, who respectively pronounced them surprizing remedies. The faculty made experiments of them, and the consequence was, a total rejection of these new remedies.

Several other woods likewise, imported from the Indies were greatly boasted for their qualities;
but

but upon trial, were no sooner known, than consigned to the same oblivion with the former.

Fernel, a skilful physician of Paris, was the first that seriously applied himself to the discovery of a genuine specific; we shall have occasion to speak of him hereafter.

Julian Palmier, his pupil, assisted in some measure, the investigation of his master. Guillaume Rondelet, professor and chancellor of the faculty in Montpellier, tried, as a remedy against this disorder, the syrup de St. Ambroise, which he made of the hirst and young branches of the fig tree, a remedy already known and used in physic, under the title of sudorific. Nicholas Chesnau, added to the foregoing preparation, figs and raisins.

Augier Ferrier, and some physicians after him, proposed divers remedies, of which they made experiments with great fatigue and trouble, such as the root of gentian, asarabacca, alecampane, oris and sept. foil. A long time afterwards, the antivenereal quality of camphor and antimony was discovered. They thought to find the first a powerful check on the mercury, which, while it reduced its salivatory effects, on the one side, might assist its power and energy on the other, against the venereal virus. The second, approved as a genuine antivenereal, upon what grounds is not at present material, has maintained its credit much longer. They still use it, mixed with sudorific decoctions (in these cases unhappily too frequent) where the disease eluding the operation of mercury, occasions the physician to have recourse to more efficacious remedies,

dies, and thereby greatly disheartens the patient. If the researches into the vegetable œconomy have not been various and extensive; if they have not concurred to perfect a method of treating the venereal disease, which was their grand and ultimate object, still they ought not to be looked upon with an eye of indifference.

It is a misfortune, if such researches should have given rise to an unjust and prejudiced opinion of the insufficiency of vegetable remedies in venereal complaints; a prejudice too prevalent in our days; and how destructive has it proved to mankind!

Because some slight attempts in the vegetable system have not been attended with all the success with which the adventurers flattered themselves, they despaired of that which might probably be expected from a thorough disquisition, lost sight of this object, and sought their remedy from the mineral system alone. From that time, their labour and study concentrated in this peculiar system, and amongst the almost infinite variety of branches that it includes, their view has been particularly directed towards mercury.

There is not, I venture to affirm, a body in the whole compass of nature, that has undergone so many chymical operations; it has been submitted to every form and method of trial, that could possibly vindicate any of its qualities and effects. Does it appear credible, that after immense labour, for near three centuries, on this metallic body, a preparation should be trumped up in these latter days, uniting, as it pretended,
all

all the advantages of the others, exempted from their dangerous effects; not requiring those general precautions so necessary in disorders of every kind; in short, endowed with that extraordinary, or rather marvellous specific virtue, which the papers attribute to Keyser's antivenereal pills.

Without giving a tiresome detail of all the mercurial preparations, let it suffice to mention that the mercury has been employed in various forms and various ways.

First. From the foregoing exposition of this whole matter it plainly results that they have scarce made proof or experiment of the power of vegetables against the venereal disease.

Second. In their experiments the animal system has been entirely excluded.

Third. In the mineral system they have almost intirely confined themselves to mercury. Let who will decide whether the researchers into a specific for the venereal disease have been sufficiently numerous and various, as from thence with due sanction to attribute to mercury this exclusive power of curing: if the case be otherwise, why is the pretended absolute virtue of this mineral so mightily cried up? Before we can give credit to so extraordinary an assertion, we must be fully convinced, by the nicest experiments on all the productions of nature that are capable of being used in the materia medica, or, as a subject of the medical art.

Fourth. Has mercury been generally acknowledged a specific in all venereal cases? This question would require an ample discussion: it would require a diffuse account of the opinions of different

rent physicians who have treated on the subject. As the narrow compass of this dissertation will not admit of elaborate disquisitions, I shall confine myself to the sentiments of three most eminent physicians, Boerhaave, Sydenham, and Fernel; this will be sufficient for those of my readers who are determined by the weight and not by the number of suffrages.

Boerhaave, so far from deeming mercury a specific for the venereal disease, does not think it a proper remedy in all degrees of the same; or rather in the distemper generally considered. If he grants that mercury is a very powerful opponent to the virus which spreads itself through the larger vessels, or that is situated in those parts that are easily pervaded, he affirms, at the same time, that he has always found it inefficacious, when it lodges in the smaller vessels, where the circulation is slow, and consequently the mercury can make but little way, if any at all: Besides, in this case it can maintain but a very weak operation, by no means capable of attenuating or throwing out the humour that is rendered thick by the virus, which is strongly lodged, and ready to spread itself throughout the whole mass of blood, and to produce such relapses as frequently deceive the foresight of the physician, and the groundless security of the patient. The terms of Boerhaave are as follows.

“ Mercury, put upon operation, by means of
 “ the vital motion alone, cures this disease (the
 “ venereal) expelling, by its motion, the vene-
 “ real virus. For this very reason it is ineffectu-
 “ al, when the virus is seated in those parts which
 C “ are

“ are almost out of the reach of the action of the
 “ heart and the arteries. As to gonorrhæas (says
 “ the same author) which are lodged in the re-
 “ ticular texture of the yard, where the circula-
 “ tion of the humour is scarcely perceptible; mer-
 “ cury never effects a cure.” Now this is a very
 strong authority against the general efficacy of
 mercury, when applied in venereal cases. Boer-
 haave confines its efficacy to the virus lodged in
 the larger vessels, where the blood and humours
 have sufficient motion to carry the mercurial par-
 ticles through the infected parts, with such force as
 is capable of dividing, attenuating, and at length
 expelling them by the means of salivation.

Boerhaave, having thus plainly acknowledged
 the insufficiency of mercury, does not turn his
 thoughts to the subject of preparing this metallic
 substance, which may be varied *ad infinitum*. It
 does not appear to him, but that the vegetable
 system is endowed with qualities sufficiently sub-
 til and active to reach the virus in its most inac-
 cessible seat, and to eradicate it.

He has been happy, as he informs us himself,
 in prescribing a method, by the assistance of ve-
 getables alone, and without the least grain of
 mercury, of curing patients, given over by the
 faculty, after they had in vain endeavoured to
 afford them relief, by all the modes in the mer-
 curial way, that could be devised or practiced.

We may then conclude from Boerhaave,

First. That mercury is not an absolute speci-
 fic for the venereal disease, because it is ineffica-
 cious, when the virus has gained ground, and is
 fixed in the smaller vessels.

Secondly.

Secondly. That it must consequently be ineffectual in the major part of confirmed poxes, in which the virus has penetrated the most minute and inaccessible parts of the human body.

Thirdly. That vegetables are endowed with a power of reaching the virus in the smaller vessels, and consequently of destroying it.

Sydenham, so renowned for his excellent writings on physical subjects, appears to have been no more prejudiced in favour of mercury than Boerhaave : he has not suffered himself to be influenced by the number of voters in favour of this remedy. He weighed its effects and its manner of operation, through a long course of practice ; and it may surely be presumed that he was not more unsuccessful in this point, than any of the faculty. He acknowledges, notwithstanding, that though mercury may be advantageously applied in venereal cases, the use of it is still attended with great inconveniences, and he adds a judicious remark, “ That it is no more a specific for the venereal disease, than the lancet is for the pleurisy.” He goes farther, he draws the outlines of the true specific against the venereal disease ; he recommends this useful inquiry ; and by plain and distinguishable hints, interspersed throughout the whole of his works, he facilitates, in a considerable degree, the discovery of it.

Fernel, a skilful physician of one of our monarchs, very warmly exclaims against mercury ; but without doubt overstrains the point. Far from admitting that mercury is endowed with one single quality of a salutary nature, he excludes it from the

whole medical system, as a dangerous, deceptive, and destructive mineral. Nay, so inveterate is he against this medicine, on account of the bad effects which he attributes to it, that he brands those who dare to use it, with the most odious epithets. This physician, fully convinced of the inefficacy of mercury, would not lose any more time in seeking for a remedy for the venereal disorder in the mineral system.

He made discoveries, both in the animal and vegetable systems, unknown before; he hit upon a remedy that he applied with the utmost success, in which concentrated the rare and valuable quality of effectually curing, without endangering the patient.

This remedy was made of *simples*, and some animal particle; neither mercury nor any other mineral entered into its composition, and yet it cured (what the abettors of the mercurial plan will hardly believe, notwithstanding the most particular and best authenticated proofs that he has left concerning it) not only the most obstinate and inveterate venereal cases, but even those to which mercury had been applied without success, and which had degenerated into rheumatic, gouty, scorbutic, and nervous disorders, &c.*

Men of eminence and abilities are above prejudice, and their authority alone can encounter its effects with advantage. The authorities of Fernel, Sydenham, and Boerhaave have afforded

* I do not pretend to affirm that the venereal virus, when degenerated, is capable of producing real gouts, real rheumatisms, &c.

me sufficient ground to assert, that mercury is not generally allowed by physicians as specific. against the venereal disease. Their assertions and observations, I presume will enable me to prove that this mineral is not truly a specific.

Amidst the almost infinite number of pretended specifics, there is but one generally allowed by the faculty; that is the bark. Let us take this as a criterion, and observe whether mercury is the same in regard to venereal infections, as the bark is to that kind of intermitting fever for which it is a specific.

The bark, administered by a skilful hand, cures, by its intrinsic virtue, not only the fever, but even the febrile symptoms which attend it. Can this be said of mercury?

Let us suppose a patient that has a shanker a little deep in the root, a bubo, a sinuous ulcer, a stubborn gonorrhæa, &c. The practitioner who understands the nature of the remedy which he employs, will not expect from thence the removal of these different symptoms; but he will take the ordinary course, and burn the shanker with the infernal stone, or some other caustic; or he will cover it with corrosive ointments, a practice always suspected and frequently ineffectual; nor will he entrust the cure of these symptoms to the metallic particles, which circulates through the whole vascular system. He will apply to the bubo, cataplasms, plaisters, sometimes emollient, sometimes disolvent; and if these happen to dispel it, they will indeed rather infect the general mass than entirely eradicate the distemper. If the bubo is brought to a suppuration,
which

which often happens, to the great disgust of patients, the treatment will be something like that of the parotid gland when it suppurates, or of any other gland in the same case. Is it an excrescence, they'll touch the root with the caustic or infernal stone, and will heal up the wound as in ordinary cases. If he has to treat an ulcer that penetrates deeply into the flesh, his trouble will not be small; he will have to encounter on the one side the disorder, which in its nature is very obstinate, and the difficulty of undergoing the necessary remedies; on the other hand the impression of the mercury, which by the irritation it incessantly causes upon the ulcerated part, occasions the inflammation to continually encrease, which he endeavours to destroy, and brings new obstacles to the healing of the flesh. And to what resources will he fly, if the mercury comes to fix in the ulcerated part and there form a *deposition*, by the tendency which the particles have to unite?

If he is to cure a gonorrhæa, mercury will avail very little in the treatment of it. And what advantage can in effect attend it, since we daily see gonorrhæas resist a long and methodical process, and even that of a salivation; notwithstanding the abstemious diet, and the great quantity of liquids which the patient drinks, means deemed so efficacious against this distemper? Boerhaave and Sydenham have experienced the disadvantage of this method, and do not palliate the matter: It must be observed, says the English physician, that mercury will not cure a gonorrhæa when it accompanies the pox, and that it must therefore be treated in a different manner.

Let

Let us add to this, the following remarks concerning the intrinsic virtue of mercury against the venereal virus.

First. That, notwithstanding all its efficacy, it often happens that the patient is not cured at all.

Second. That much oftener the cure is very imperfect, many symptoms remaining unremoved, after the supposed cure.

Third and lastly. That after the most specious appearances of a cure, the patients frequently fall into relapses worse than the first disorder.

Let the strenuous votaries for mercury now decide, themselves, whether they who will not be satisfied with such a remedy, and who employ the bulk of their time in seeking one more efficacious, can be reckoned over scrupulous or nice.

Upon the whole I think I have shewn,

First. That there is no sufficient foundation for proposing mercury as a real specific in the venereal disease.

Second. That the opinion which has pronounced it a specific is founded on prejudice alone.

Third. That it is a prejudice of such a nature, as tends to discourage those who are disposed to apply themselves to the discovery of a real specific, to believe that this metallic substance, amongst all bodies, mineral, animal, and vegetable, is solely capable of eradicating the venereal virus.

I take the liberty to subjoin some further remarks ; which, though they are not intimately interwoven with my subject, will come in here with more propriety, as they include the principal considerations which have given rise to the author's endeavours to discover the vegetable antivenereal

tivenereal remedy, the subject of the second part of this dissertation.

First. All the authors who have searched into the origin of the venereal disease, have particularly cited the place where it has prevailed from the earliest times, and where it is endemial.* The major part of them, especially Sydenham, have placed the former in Africa, towards the coast of Guinea. This, I apprehend, implies that these people had some kind of remedy for this distemper before the properties of mercury were discovered.

This must be indubitable, let them have been ever so ignorant, even instinct itself would have pointed out a remedy.

Second. When the Europeans first penetrated into Guinea and the parts adjacent, they found the inhabitants of that vast tract immersed in the profoundest ignorance. They were entirely unskilled in the art of extracting metals from the bowels of the earth, and of forming instruments proper for the culture of the ground. They were therefore very far from supposing those metals capable of administering to the medical art. Should chance have thrown mercury in their way, either they would not have tried it, or the bad success attending their experiments, would very soon have induced them to abandon it. To judge of it by the length of time and number of experiments, which it has required in Europe, before it could be applied with any success to the relief

* Sydenham is of opinion that the pox was not known in America, till the introduction of negroes into that country, from the coast of Guinea.

of human infirmities, it never could have been rendered a salutary remedy, were it even analogous, as we know by experience it is contrary, to the constitution of the human body.

In one word, the application of mercury in venereal cases, its preparation, and the method of using it, must imply a degree of knowledge which the people on the coast of Guinea never possessed.—Mercury, therefore, is not a remedy for the venereal disease in that part of Africa.

Third, If the remedy of the Africans on the coast of Guinea is not of the mineral kind, it must be either of the animal or the vegetable: Since it is not easy to prove, by its effects, that there is any thing of the animal in its composition, it is natural to conclude that it is of the vegetable kind, if we consider,

First, The ignorance of these people ;

Second, The preparations which compositions of an animal kind, to be used in physic, generally require ;

Third, The knowledge requisite for these preparations.

We know, on the contrary, that vegetables are never more efficacious than when they undergo no preparation.—The negroes themselves furnish us with a very striking proof ; when we find them cure by a plant, a bark, a fruit, the most obstinate disorders, even the *Yaws*, deemed with much probability, a kind of pox, against which our best mercurial preparations have constantly miscarried.

We apprehend that we have sufficiently proved,

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First,

First, That those who to this day look upon mercury as *specific* in the venereal disease, and *its only remedy*, are in an error.

Second, That this is the error of the people and not of the faculty.

Third, That if the most eminent professors of the medical art had discovered in mercury these salutary qualities, they would not have proved its inefficacy in divers cases, and the danger of administering it.

Fourth, That it is probable, that the remedy used amongst a people afflicted with this distemper, before it was imported by us, was of the vegetable kind.

Fifth, and last, That the possibility of extirpating radically the venereal virus by vegetables alone, is incontestably established, by the authority and observations of Boerhaave, Fernel, &c. also by reason and experience.

I might here introduce a pompous account of the medicinal virtues of the vegetable system, by instancing the most raging disorders that have been overcome by a wood, a root, an herb ; and we find the sharpest intermitting fevers yield to the bark ; the most obstinate dysenteries to the ipecacuanha ; shocking convulsive pains to the opium.* These incontestible proofs, while they confirm the power of the vegetable system over human diseases, afford ground for the

* Though opium removes but very few disorders, still it is a most valuable medicine, since it prolongs life, in particular cases, when the patient is just ready to expire ; and gives the physician an opportunity to combat the distemper by proper remedies.

strongest presumption, in favour of the possibility of extirpating the venereal virus by its means. But the above is sufficient for those of my readers who acknowledge the necessity of a vegetable remedy ; and too much for those who obstinately oppose every thing that is not conformable to their interest or prejudice. Fearless, therefore, of the decision of the latter, I shall lay before the former a specimen of the valuable effects of M. de Velnos's vegetable antivenereal syrup.

M. DE VELNOS's

Vegetable Antivenereal Remedy.

THIS remedy is a fyrup ; it derives its antivenereal virtue from a certain number of plants, whose efficacy in destroying the venereal virus, which they possess in an eminent degree, was never so much as suspected. It is agreeable to the palate ; it passes easily through the intestines ; it produces an agreeable sensation on the stomach, like that arising from a pleasant stomachic apozeme.

The Effects of the Remedy.

It purges gently ; the patients go commonly to stool two or three times in the four and twenty hours ; the evacuations neither strain nor irritate. It operates by perspiration : though the patients do not sweat, they are generally in a moisture two or three hours immediately following the administration of the remedy.

It

It extends its action to the reins : the urine increases in quantity, and discharges, according to the nature of the parts affected and the degree of the infection, stringy, slimy, purulent matter, and this returns to its former state.

This remedy is strengthening, stomachic, &c. its quality is to dissolve and attenuate the humours ; and is so remarkable, that it disperses without the aid of external applications, buboes, hardness of the testicles, gummy tumours, callosities of the urethra, the edges of old ulcers spread over the different parts of the body, &c.

The power of strengthening the stomach, and assisting the digestion is so much the more valuable in an antivenereal remedy, as nothing is more common than to meet with patients, in the course of practice, whose stomachs are weak, and little capable of performing their necessary functions. Though this circumstance is imputed to divers causes, the most common, without doubt, is the long use of cooling and purgative methods, which are generally employed against gonorrhæas, and other venereal symptoms. Patients in this case recover with difficulty after such treatment, even when the virus is perfectly destroyed ; and when it is but imperfectly so, they hardly ever gain strength sufficient to undergo a new course, complete and methodical. From this cause, the disease requiring more exertion in the remedy than the strength of the patient will admit of, it cannot reach the cause at which it is principally aimed, and the patients necessarily run the risk of not being able to bear
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a sufficient quantity of mercury, notwithstanding the skill of the practitioner.

We may easily discern the benefit of a remedy which strengthens the stomach in proportion as it is used, and which furnishes the patient with the means of sustaining a course as long and complete as the degree of the disease may require.

Hence the reason of its being an emmenagogue is obvious. There is no surer method of restoring the menses, after a long suppression, than of joining the dissolvent with the stomachic: It possesses these two qualities, which the faculty are so desirous of uniting. It may perhaps be said, that it is a matter of indifference whether an antivenereal remedy is an *emmenagogue* or not. Is it then indifferent, whether a woman infected with the virus, and deprived of this salutary evacuation, is or is not regular, after the chief disorder is entirely destroyed?

On the other hand, it is, without doubt, from the emmenagogue virtue of this remedy, that we are entitled to pronounce its efficacy, in those disorders that are peculiar to the sex.

Method of Cure.

In common venereal cases, it generally effects a cure in about fifteen days. It will be difficult to fix a time for the cure of confirmed and inveterate poxes, as such must be treated in proportion to their malignity. Obstinate gonorrhæas,

rhæas, ulcers in the urethra (improperly called carnosities), swellings in the glands proceeding from venereal causes, venereal and scorbutic eruptions, and all other the most inveterate symptoms are radically carried off by the antivenereal syrup.

The remedy is agreeable to the palate, balsamic and benign to the constitution, as by its operation it acts with that safety and certainty, as totally to eradicate the virus, and purify the blood from all kind of infection.

The use of the syrup is continued morning and evening during a fortnight in slight infections ; after which time the patient resumes his ordinary manner of living, is purged, and thus ends the whole affair.—In cases of a more inveterate nature, the same easy method is made use of, only requiring a longer time.

Nothing is more simple and sure than this method, provided the patient will be attentive and regular in point of diet during the course, which is not severe.—Proper directions will be given with the medicine.

As all the symptoms of the venereal disease arise from the same principle, we use but one and the same method of encountering it, which always tends to the extirpation of the cause. The method of treatment is always the same in confirmed cases ; but in slight ones, such as shankers, buboes of recent growth, gonorrhæas, &c. the treatment may be adapted to the situation or business of the patient. Nothing is externally applied to shankers or buboes.—Most of these
 assistances

assurances are at least superfluous, and often pernicious in their method of application. All authors, who have written upon venereal cases, have demonstrated the bad effects that may arise from the application of caustics to shankers, astringent injections to the urethra, repelling plaisters to buboes ; but I shall not here cite particularly their respective opinions.

In this new method we never have recourse to such auxiliaries ; the efficacy of the remedy not requiring them. In fact, it is to disperse the callous parts of any ulcers that they have recourse to these external applications. Will not a remedy that dissolves the swelling of the testicles, exostoses, disperse swellings much less compacted, and situated in parts more pervadable, when its composition, far from being hard or rigid in its operation, in a word, of a metallic nature, is sweet and balsamic, and such, in fact, as we should apply, if external application was necessary ? Is it to heal the flesh ? This is the work of Nature : What then can art do in this case !

'Tis an axiom received in physic, *that what cleanses well cures well* : Now what remedy can more effectually tend to the depuration of the humours, than the antivenereal syrup ? It alters the habit ; it causes evacuation in the three different manners ; it attacks the virus on all sides, and afterwards evacuates by the emunctories towards which it generally takes its course. It is pleasant and mild in its operation, a quantity of it may, without danger, be infused into the vessels.

Its

Its divisible quality necessarily arising from its dispersing itself through the fluids of the human body ; its immediate connection with these very fluids and the vessels which contain them, are such advantages as mercurial remedies cannot boast, which for the most part are insoluble.

By reason of the great number of active parts which are in motion at the same time in the vessels, by reason of their tenuity, there are no capillary vessels which it does not penetrate ; no lamina of the bones between which it does not slide ; no glands which it does not pervade. As there is no part of the human body which the particles of this remedy does not reach, there is no symptom that escapes its powerful operation ; the smaller vessels receive it after it has been dissolved in the humours, by which they are moistened ; even the chyle is impregnated with it, and conveys it into the extreme vascular ramifications.

It is to the tenuity of this remedy that we must ascribe the salutary effect which it produces in the most inveterate and confirmed degrees of the disease, in which mercurial preparations have often proved ineffectual.—Let us give some reasons for this difference of effect.

Without entering upon the peculiar nature of the venereal virus, it may be affirmed, that its most apparent effects are the thickening of the humours and obstructions. The mercurial particles are always too large when they come to strike against the viscid lymph, which obstructs a vessel, they act upon the first moleculæ with so

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much

much the more force as they have more weight in a determined magnitude.

They press the antecedent particles ; the most fluid part is expanded ; the whole cause of the obstruction lessens ; its mass and hardness proportionably increases ; the vessel which contains it is distended to such a length as prevents its yielding to the operation, or recovering its former state. What will be the consequence ? Either the vessel will burst, which sometimes happens, especially in the bowels, where the metallic particles will pervade a collateral tube, and will no longer act upon the obstructing cause : or the following particles will take the same route, and be conveyed, according to the hydraulic system, into those parts where they find least resistance, leaving the obstruction in the same state and the disease which nourishes it.—Nor is experience wanting to confirm this method of reasoning. How many diseased persons are there who have undergone divers courses under the hands of the most skilful practitioners, without a confirmed cure, merely for not having been properly treated in the beginning ! For it is a standing maxim, that a patient who has not been cured by a second or third course, will hardly ever be cured by any subsequent process, notwithstanding all the choice and care that may be used in the application of mercurial preparations.

The vegetable remedy does not act by dint of weight ; it is not by forcing the obstacles that it tends to destroy them : its qualities are, on the contrary, light and subtil ; it mixes with the humours, with them it conveys itself into the ob-
structed

structed vessels, reanimates their languid motion, and disposes them efficaciously to operate upon the dense matter which causes the obstructions. It envelopes the venereal *miasmata* alters their nature, allays their acrimony, and as it were *neutralizes* them, and gives the lymphatic particles power to connect and follow the regular course of circulation.—To give one general view of the advantages resulting from the vegetable remedy, I shall compare them with those which in their quality and effects immediately appertain to mercury.

First. Every one knows, that in salivations, however urgent the state of the disease may be, the surgeon employs a long time in painful and expensive preparations, but indispensable upon that plan. He then rubs the body, at different times, with mercurial unction, and continues at stated times these applications, during a month or more, according to the strength of the patient and the degree of the disease. *Method*
mercur
cure

The time required to make these preparations, which are essential in this plan of salivating, and in all treatment upon the mercurial system, is often sufficient for the new remedy to effect a perfect or confirmed cure. It is ordinarily continued no longer than fifteen days; in this space the virus is almost destroyed, the exostoses are shaken, the pustules and ulcers are cleansed and disposed to heal; fifteen or twenty days regular diet reduce the glands and exostoses, and complete the healing of the infected parts.—*2.^d*
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In urgent cases, where the palate of the mouth is in danger; in the case of the œsophagus, the larynx,
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larynx, rottenness, violent pains, want of sleep, hectic fevers, which admit of no delay, the anti-venereal syrup has the advantage, as it may be almost immediately administered. The second day the patient may begin to use it, and about fifth or sixth he will receive relief.

Second. Every prudent practitioner requires patients to keep their room as much during the time of preparation as during the application of the mercurial ointment. The new method requires no such caution, except in the most inveterate state of the disease.

Third. When they meet, as is very frequent, with old and stubborn cases, that cannot be overcome but by a strong salivation, in old people, debilitated by age and the debaucheries of their younger years; afflicted with secondary diseases, such as the gout, rheumatism, &c. in women with child, or such as are weak and of a thin habit of body, in whose case the baths are as necessary as impracticable; in children, where the obstinate degree of the distemper will not admit of waiting for a more advanced age; in adult persons, attacked with disorders in the liver or lungs; in these different cases how will skilful practitioners proceed? There have been a thousand instances of old persons perishing under the operation of a mercurial process, which is more violent and dangerous as the fibres are rigid and dried, and when this is accompanied with gouty and rheumatic pains, which during the treatment never fail to rage with the utmost violence. Pregnant women expire, either through the salivation, for which they have not been sufficiently

ficiently prepared; [here we speak of women seven or eight months advanced in their pregnancy] or from a premature delivery, occasioned by the mercury, which gives too great a motion to the humours, and is productive of the disagreeable impressions on the foetus. Weak persons, and those who are subject to spitting blood, or to violent coughing, have been observed to die under the inevitable increase of those symptoms. Children, in fine, because they are such, and consequently too weak to resist the subversion of the animal œconomy, occasioned by the operation of the mercury, have been known to die suddenly in the midst of its course.—None of these effects are to be apprehended from the vegetable syrup: it allays gouty and rheumatic pains, and sometimes entirely removes them; it is free from the objection of want of preparation for pregnant women, as what it requires is always practicable. It prevents miscarriages, because it is not by forcible means that it removes the obstructions, but by dissolving and gently evacuating the matter which forms them.

Fourth. In complicated venereal cases, attended with cutaneous disorders, such as tetters, scabs, St. Anthony's fire, what advantage must not a remedy, balsamic in its nature, which alters and evacuates with so much ease, and by such various emunctories, the sharp irritating humours which cause them, have over a metallic substance so liable to add to the acrimony of the most dreadful disorders!—Experience confirms this remark, as neither tetters nor pustules, usual concomitants

comitants of the principal disease, are ever known to resist the operation of this remedy.

Fifth. It very frequently happens, that the venereal virus is complicated with a scorbutic humour ; in that case, however pressing the nature of the disease may be, prudent practitioners will by no means presume immediately to administer antivenereal mercurials, as antiscorbutics less inflame the venereal disease, than antivenereals do scorbutic humours : they first attack the scurvy with those remedies which are peculiar to it. But if this disorder is in itself so difficult to cure, what must it be when attended with this dreadful complication ? Several months will be scarce sufficient to eradicate the scorbutic humour, and after having drained the patient by the first course, of that humour, and left the field free for the growth of venereal symptoms, the physician will of course be led to prove the inefficacy of mercurial remedies, which he had at first so wisely foreseen.

This complication is not the least obstruction to the cure of the principal disease, when encountered by the new remedy.—It changes not in its course of operation ; there is no necessity for having recourse to antiscorbutics properly so called : this saves the time and trouble of the first course, which often proves fruitless. The patient, far from having reason to fear the effects of the antivenereal syrup upon the scorbutic humour, has just ground to hope for the greatest benefit from it : the scorbutic symptoms have often been observed to disappear first, and oftener
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the complicated diseases have at once been dispelled, almost in the same space of time as would be necessary to cure the venereal attended with no complication.

Sixth, The gland is, at the same time, a part the most exposed and liable to imbibe the virus : after coition with a woman infected it is inflamed ; the preputium not being able to maintain its proper seat, is drawn to the body of the yard, and hence proceeds the paraphimosis. If by its original conformation the preputium is long and stretched, if it is fastened on the glands by shankers which adhere to it, there will be a phimosis. When these cases resist the ordinary course of practice, incision becomes the sole resource. In the first case, the skilful practitioner will take care that the bridge is cut, in order to prevent a gangrene, and the fall of the gland, a misfortune which the negligence of patients, or the dread of incision, render too frequent.—In the second it has been customary to perform two different operations ; the one consists in dividing the preputium to the root of the glands, the other in taking it entirely off ; one or the other of these operations is absolutely indispensable, when the adherence is strong and of long standing, and extended. What is more frequent than incision or caustics, upon buboes which come to suppuration ? Without mentioning the pain, the filth, the disgust with which these operations are attended, how disagreeable must it be to patients to have daily before their eyes such marks as remind them of their debauchery, and the pain and misery of its effects !

All these operations, and the pain consequent on them, are avoided by the vegetable remedy : the second day of the course the inflammation will allay, and the suppuration become benign, the fifth or sixth the glands and preputium will be almost restored to their natural state. The suppuration is maintained by the sole effect of the remedy, which circulates in the vascular system, and produces a cleansing : the shankers, thus purged, heal. Recent buboes never come to suppuration, if the state of the disease be not too confirmed ; when the syrup is begun to be taken, the purulent matter is carried off through the urinary passage. The above-mentioned symptoms are of the last consequence, not only on account of the danger but the shame with which they are attended. How frequently has the peace and union of families been disturbed by the ignominious traces of debauchery, which a young bride has discovered on her bridegroom !

Seventh. The method of friction, and all those that have the mercury for their *primum mobile*, have many inseparable concomitants : the salival glands swell, as do the face and head ; the tongue grows big and hangs out of the mouth ; respiration and swallowing are obstructed ; a fever ensues ; delirium, drowsiness, lethargy, and sometimes death follows. If the patient has a weak stomach, if he is subject to coughs, or spitting of blood, these complaints are increased, and the last is always dangerous. Is he subject to hysterics or attacked by the gout ? He will be much more tormented during the course : the violence of his pains will bring on a fever, which
may

may be attended with a fatal consequence. Women with child will be greatly injured if advanced in their pregnancy ; too happy, if the most lamentable effect of the circumstance is the inefficacy of the remedies.

Now though it were possible to remove all these obstacles in the way of mercury, would it not still leave some traces of its ravaging effects ? Sometimes the extreme parts contracted ; sometimes the lips distorted ; a shaking of the limbs ; will not these effects discover their cause ? A simple glance on the manner in which the syrup operates, will sufficiently prove, that no such effect can be apprehended from it. Its operation tends to change the grossness of the humours, and gently to evacuate the foulness with which they are vitiated.

The physician may increase or decrease these evacuations, as the symptoms require ; he is always master of his remedy, and may apply it at his own discretion.

It will easily be observed, that no salivatory effects are to be apprehended from the new remedy, and that consequently the patient will be enabled to avoid both the pain and danger which attend them. It is universally known, that mercury is the only body acknowledged to be capable of such an extraordinary evacuation.

Eighth. Gonorrhæas are the most common of all venereal symptoms, and the most difficult to remove. Notwithstanding the high opinion that is entertained of mercury, it has been found to be a very weak resource in this case. Cooling methods are immediately used ; they then

proceed to cleansers, which they assist with mercurial purges often repeated. During this time, the patient must observe a regular diet, avoid spirituous liquors, use moderate exercise, as the smallest slip in point of regularity reinvigorates the disease when it was just at its last gasp. When all this happily succeeds, the gonorrhœa will not remain above six weeks or two months. But where are patients to be found who will strictly adhere to these rules? They will not be disposed to think their case dangerous when they have only a running; and the greatest precaution of which a patient can be capable, is to regulate himself with prudence during the first stage of a gonorrhœa; that is to say, during the time of the inflammation and the pain attending it. If it therefore happens, either through accident or by its own obstinacy, that the gonorrhœa continues to the term of two months, it changes as it were its very nature, and all the former means become useless. Astringents are then multiplied in all their forms; bolusses, decoctions, injections are all heaped upon the patient. Notwithstanding these fallacious medicines, the greater part of gonorrhœas retain almost their whole vigour for the space of several years. Yet we cannot but acknowledge, that the gonorrhœa will sometimes yield to this dangerous method. The running is suppressed, without being dried up; the matter is thrown back, choaks up the prostate glands and the testicles, infects the mass of humours; the ulcers in the urethra acquire such a malignity as renders them intractable, their extremities swell, and form those

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carnosities which they had long falsely thought real fleshy excrescences, fixed in the passage of the urethra. A gonorrhæa of this kind is scarcely ever perfectly cured : they may lessen the quantity of the running ; but besides the ulcers not being healed, there still continues an oozing of matter, white, brown, yellow, &c. especially in the morning. These relicks are often mistaken by persons diseased ; they suffer themselves easily to be persuaded, that these little runnings proceed from a relaxation of the parts. But, says Sydenham, these unfortunate persons prove, to their own great regret, that these are too certain marks of the existence of the virus, which, though in a manner stifled, is ready to raise fresh ravages on the first occasion, whether furnished by intemperance, immoderate exercise, or any other the like cause.

Mineral astringent waters are again the resources, after this method : they commonly use them about the end of the treatment of obstinate gonorrhæas, to remove the remainder of the running, which they deem benign. This method is neither sure nor free from danger : if the virus is entirely destroyed, it cannot but be ineffectual ; if there remains the least degree of the venereal taint, the mineral waters fix the same, and give birth to hardness of the testicles, carnosities of the urethra, retention of urine, &c.

These two last complaints, very common at present, are the last stage of gonorrhæas which resist the ordinary method of practice, and the unhappy patients are the more to be pitied, as those symptoms are more obstinate and difficult to cure.

The most effectual remedy hitherto known against these carnosities, is beyond contradiction that of bougies ; but this is not always practicable, is often ineffectual, and very often dangerous. Few patients can bear the application of bougies ; the urethra, too susceptible of feeling, and irritated by their pressure, gives the patient such pain as obliges him to discontinue the use of them : but if he is resolutely bent to continue them, he will find, to his great surprize, an inflammation in the urethra and the body of the yard, and purulent matter falling into the scrotum, which was intended to be extracted, an inflammation on the perinæum, stoppage of water, which they designed to prevent, &c. But even when these symptoms are avoided, can a radical cure be hoped for from such a method of treatment ? No, surely : there are in the urethra obstinate venereal ulcers, the edges or extremities of which, more or less raised and hardened, form those carnosities which the practitioner seeks to destroy. These ulcers retain their obstinate degree of virus, which must therefore be eradicated : there lies the difficulty. Can such effects be reasonably expected from bougies ? Experience has decided the question ; and numberless unfortunate persons pass their lives in a twofold state of misery, between the dreadful pains which attend a stoppage of urine, and the horrors of death impending over them every moment : instances sufficient to invalidate all that can be said in favour of bougies.

Monfieur de Velnos' method admits none of this variety of remedies ; it is ever simple, ever uni-

uniform ; the different courses are only varied in point of duration, and the remedy only by its *intensity*, which is proportioned to the patient's degree of infection. A course of fifteen days will be sufficient in a recent gonorrhæa ; one of longer standing requires a course of twenty or twenty-five days. When the prostate glands are hard and almost schirrous, which is not uncommon, the course is continued a longer time. In short, when the gonorrhæa is complicated with carnosities in the urethra, the course is sometimes protracted to the sixth week.

It will be difficult enough to reconcile the possibility of curing carnosities in the urethra by an internal remedy without topical applications, with the idea of a piece of flesh, well organized, fixed in a certain part of this passage ; but this notion is false. These pretended carnosities are the edges of certain obstinate ulcers, which raising themselves above the surface of the the urethra contract the passage in the place where they are seated. This is the opinion which should be entertained of carnosities, or callosities, improper terms, introduced by error, and supported by prejudice.

By supposing, as is really the case, that the stoppage of the urethra proceeds from the swelling of the flesh, and that the retention of the urine is occasioned by this stoppage, it is easy to prove that an internal medicine can cure these two disorders. The operation of an internal remedy can effect a cleansing of an ulcer, and nature itself is sufficient to heal it ; the very cleansing supposes flesh easily to be healed ; such flesh will
not

not rise in the part where the wound is seated ; cicatrization fastens the flesh in the same state as it found it, and when this is over, there are no more edges raised, no more obstruction, and finally, no more stoppage of the urine.

It must afford some satisfaction, I presume, to see the principal benefits and advantages of the antivenereal syrup brought into one point of view.

First, It requires no other preparation than a purge.

Second, It is little expensive, on account of the plainness of the regimen, and the short time of the course.

Third, It obliges not the patient to keep his room, but in cases of the last extremity.

Fourth, It is convenient to take, and agreeable to the palate, and its effects may easily be concealed from the inspection of the most curious.

Fifth, It operates in the most natural channels.

Sixth, It produces no disorder in the animal œconomy, nor leaves behind it any injurious consequences: on the contrary, it may be affirmed on observation, that it strengthens the stomach, and is singularly salutary to the lungs.

Seventh, The most inveterate complications restrain not its efficacy ; it infallibly eradicates the venereal virus, and often cures disorders that accompany it, such as the scurvy, gout, rheumatism, &c.

Eighth, It cures shankers, swellings in the groin, phimosis, and periphimosis, and in general without any topical application ; buboes never suppurate, when taken in time.

Ninth,

Ninth, It always cures simple venereal cases, of however long standing they may be ; common gonorrhæas seldom remain to the end of the treatment of a confirmed pox ; the whites in women have likewise been known to disappear with the other symptoms.

Tenth, It infallibly removes tetters, and other cutaneous disorders which indicate a venereal cause ; and sometimes those which proceed from an other principle.

Eleven, As it operates more through such or such particular emunctories, according to the different habits and constitutions of persons, it is adapted to all constitutions, and efficacious in all climates.

Twelve, The last of the course, the patients come out of it in a better plight of body than they entered upon it.

To neglect no means that may conduce to authenticate the efficacy of the remedy now offered to the public, we have subjoined a small number of special observations which will exhibit a general view of venereal cases, and we hope their authenticity will convince even the less credulous part of the world.

OBSERVATION I.

Bubo, Shankers, œdemitous Swelling in the Legs, Ulcers between each Toe, and Excrescencies in the Anus.

A Patient aged one and twenty years, had a shanker upon the preputium, a bubo on the left groin, excrescences in the anus, and very painful ulcers between each of his toes ; the pains which he suffered were so violent and lasting, that he passed a month without sleep. He was put upon the use of the vegetable syrup the 19th of September, 1762 ; in the space of two and twenty days the above-mentioned symptoms disappeared, without using any topical application either upon the fores or the bubo.

This patient was seen before, during, and after the cure, by Monf. Paris, physician of the faculty in Paris, and Monf. Moreau des Ravieres, physician in ordinary to the king.

OBSERVATION II.

Gonorrhœa of long standing.

A patient, aged fifty five years, had since his thirtieth year a gonorrhœa, for which he never ceased using medicines during that long space of time ; the gonorrhœa resisted all these remedies, and even the strongest astringents. He went under

der a course of the syrup, in the month of February, 1763; the gonorrhæa ceased in three and twenty days. It was judged, however, necessary to continue the course to the forty-second, to effect a solid cure of the old ulcers by which it was occasioned.

This person was visited, when under cure, by Monf. Faure de Beaufont, physician in ordinary to the king.

OBSERVATION III.

A Woman pregnant, and infected with the Venereal Disease.

In the month of January, 1764, a lady pregnant, anxious for the health of the infant which she carried, consulted M. de Velnos; he judged the administration of his remedy necessary; nor did a pregnancy of eight months and some days appear to him a sufficient reason for not applying it.

The remedy was administered to the patient with all possible success, and she was happily brought to bed the twentieth day of the course. The child did not retain the least symptom of the mother's disease, which was of too long standing to suppose that it would not have been infected. He appeared extremely sound at his birth, and is in good health to this day.

This lady was attended by M. Petit senior, first physician to the duke of Orleans, and M. Petit junior, physician in ordinary to the same prince; both commissioners appointed by the

commission royal of physicians to observe the effects of the new remedy.

OBSERVATION IV.

Shanker in the Throat, Gonorrhœa, nocturnal Pains.

A soldier in the regiment of Swiss guards, about thirty years of age, applied to M. de Velnos in the month of March, 1762. He had, first, a deep shanker in the back part of the mouth, about an inch in diameter; second, a gonorrhœa; third, nocturnal pains, so sharp as never to suffer him to sleep comfortably, and to admit but of very short intervals of rest at all. He underwent three formal courses; one in his regiment, one at Aix in Provence, and a third in Paris; but neither of these alleviated the symptoms, on the contrary, the ulcer in the throat daily increased in point of malignity. He took M. de Velnos' syrup for fourteen days; the gonorrhœa, after having passed through the different appearances between the green and the white, was entirely suppressed the ninth day; on the eleventh an eschar, or hard crust, fell from the ulcer in the throat; he dropt a second on the nineteenth, a third the twenty-sixth, and the thirtieth the sore appeared benign and closed. Some days before this the patient felt none of the pains which had hitherto tormented him, and rested almost as well as when in perfect health; the fortieth day he resumed his customary manner of living, and the functions of his station.

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This patient was seen, while under cure, by M. Petit senior, M. Bercher, physician of the faculty of Paris, and senior physician to the camps and armies of the king, and by M. Petit junior.

OBSERVATION V.

Gonorrhœa, Obstruction in the Urethra, Stoppage of Urine.

A patient, aged between twenty-eight and thirty years, had for ten years a gonorrhœa, with an obstruction in the urethra. He had passed, in this course of years, through the hands of different persons of the faculty, to the number of seventeen, and yet, far from getting the better of his disorder, he had been latterly afflicted with additional symptoms, such as retention of urine, the attacks of which became every day more frequent. The urethra had been much injured, as well by the frequent introduction of the probe, as likewise that of a small twig which he used himself on a certain occasion, when he was attacked by a most violent stoppage of urine. He undertook the use of the syrup in the month of June 1764, and he continued it turning seventeen days. About the fifth or sixth day he began to make water freely ; this favourable symptom became daily more remarkable ; at length he was perfectly cured in the space of six weeks. He has had no attack since that time, and continues to make water with the utmost ease.

This person, who belongs to the household of his serene highness the prince of Conti, was recommended to the care of M. de Velnos by M. de Chabrillan, commander of Maltha, and first gentleman to that prince. He was seen by M. de Querenet, physician of the faculty of Paris.

OBSERVATION VI.

Stench of the Nose, Deafness, and occasional Blindness.

A patient, about thirty-six years of age, strong and well made, had for eighteen months past, first, a continual rheum, with a heat in the nose and the nostrils; second, the nose was swelled and distended; third, a purple spot on the corner of the left eye; fourth, he was almost entirely deaf at certain times, and was always hard of hearing; fifth, when he had read or wrote a few minutes his sight failed him, and he could no longer distinguish small objects. In these circumstances, his memory was so impaired as to suggest to his mind with great difficulty the most familiar ideas. The patient attributed all these accidents to the excessive colds he had suffered in Germany, during the late war; and did not in the least impute them to any venereal infection. But the inefficacy of the best remedies administered by the most skilful hands, determined him to apply to M. de Velnos, the 18th of March 1764. He underwent a course of the
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vegetable fyrup for eighteen days ; at the end of this term, the rheume was almost intirely diffipated ; the spot was removed ; the nose restored to its natural form ; he saw clearly after a long course of reading ; he heard as distinctly as before he was afflicted with the disorders, and his memory was in its most retentive state. His health is still continued, nor have any of the above-mentioned symptoms hitherto appeared.

This cure is attested by M. Bercher, physician of the faculty of Paris, Faure de Beaufont, physician in ordinary to the king, M. Casin, surgeon of Paris, and other gentlemen of the faculty.

OBSERVATION VII.

The Pox and the Scurvy, with a foul Bore on the Palate.

In the month of June, 1763, a consultation was called composed of M. Astruc, Messrs. Petits senior and junior, M. La Faye, M. Moreau, surgeon major of the Hotel Dieu, &c. on the case of a patient between thirty-five and forty years of age. On examining, a considerable ulcer in the throat appeared, as also an ulcer on the palate, with rottenness in one of the *os palati*, a considerable swelling in the maxillary and parotid glands, the gums black and ulcerated, flying pains in the thighs and legs, the extremities themselves œdemitous and covered with livid spots, caused the consultants to decide, that it was a complication of the venereal and
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the scurvy. They considered there was but one chance for this unfortunate wretch, and with much reluctance gave their opinion of the method of treatment that might suit his case. Messrs. Petits, to whom M. de Velnos' remedy was at that time more particularly known than to any other of the consultants, advised them to commit the patient to his care. The vegetable syrup was administered to him; on the fifth day he began to swallow solid food, which he had not done a long time before; the eighteenth day the swelling of the lower extremities were entirely abated, and had resumed their natural colour; the twenty-fifth, the tumefaction of the glands was entirely removed; the twenty-sixth, one of the bones of the palate exfoliated.

The ulcers, as well in the palate as the throat, appeared healed about the thirtieth day of the course. It is necessary here to observe, that the *Sieur de Velnos* used neither gargles, nor any other outward application. The patient appeared to be perfectly cured the thirty-fifth day, and returned to Provence, after M. de la Faye had applied a plate of silver to the palate, to fill up the space that was left void by the falling out of the bone.

This patient was seen after his cure, by Messrs. Petits and M. de la Faye. M. Petit sen. occasionally saw him a year afterwards, when he found him in perfect health.

OBSERVATION VIII.

Gout and Rheumatism, supposed to be complicated with the Venereal Disease.

A patient, aged about thirty-eight years, of a robust constitution, had, in the year 1745, a gonorrhæa; he went through a course, and thought himself cured. He enjoyed a good state of health till July 1752; the 24th of this month, he went to bed apparently well, and in the perfect use of all his limbs; but on his awaking was deprived of the use of them all. This disorder was treated as a complication of the gout and rheumatism: his motion was restored a little, and the patient caused himself to be removed to Paris, where he underwent the most approved remedies, under the management of the most eminent surgeons in that city. This course left things in the same state as it found them. He then tried the Bourbon waters, and returned from thence with almost the free use of his limbs. In the month of July 1758, he was attacked in the same manner as before, and treated in the same manner on the part of the faculty, and with the same success. The disorder returned with the same symptoms in the month of July 1759 and 1760: this last year, the Bourbon waters did not produce such good effects as they had done the preceding, and the patient appeared there again in 1761 and 1762, in the month of March. The
waters

waters were not attended with such happy effects at this last visit, for during the time of using them, he found himself seized with some symptoms, though they were milder than they had been the preceding years. To complete his misfortune, he was seized with a fever, which greatly affected his head, so that he was in danger of his life ; his limbs became daily more stiff and more painful, till at length he had no other motion than that of the jaw. In this state, he underwent, in the year 1762, two regular courses of four months each, one of antivenereal bolusses, the other of the sublimate corrosive. So far were these prescriptions from restoring the use of his limbs, that, on the contrary, he lost that of the jaw during the first process. In this dreadful state did he continue till the month of March 1764, when he applied to M. de Velnos. On visiting him, the following symptoms were observed : first, the head fixed, and covered with yellow pustules, large and very loathsome ; second, the vertebræ of the neck considerably swelled and stiff ; third, the breast so locked, that he suffered the most excruciating pains, till a fit of sneezing, or some other cause, produced a more than ordinary expectoration. The right arm was bent and incapable of motion, and the shoulder considerably swelled ; the left was almost in as bad a state. His legs were likewise incapable of motion, and covered with pustules like those on the head. The nails, both of the feet and hands were covered with a kind of plaistered matter, such as is found on most gouty people.

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He took M. de Velnos' remedy during twenty-one days, at different courses in the space of three months : the pustules both of the head and legs were in that time destroyed ; the swelling of the legs abated ; the perspiration became free ; and the use of his limbs was so far restored, that he could get out of bed, walk about his room without a stick, write, raise himself up in his chair, ascend and descend a flight of stairs, by the assistance of a crutch. In the year 1765, the patient having continued the aforelaid remedy, began to walk the streets with the help of a cane, and to make considerable excursions. The use of his limbs became more free every day, and a perfect restoration was now expected upon good grounds. It is necessary here to observe, that during the time of the courses, as well as the intermediate space, he continued to void, through the urinary passage, a kind of slimy matter, which being collected and weighed, amounted to about half a dram a day.

This patient was visited, while under cure, by Messrs. Petits, sen. and jun. Faure de Beaufont, physician, and Bourgeois, surgeon, of Paris.

OBSERVATION IX.

A Venereal Ulcer in the Nose, Exostoses, Gout, Convulsions.

In the beginning of the year 1763, M. de Velnos was applied to by a lady infected for thirteen years with the most dreadful symptoms of the

venereal disease : a white swelling real or apparent in the articulation of the right arm ; exostoses in the lower extremities of the tibia, and of the fibula, on both sides, in the middle of the coronal bone, and the inferior part of the os humeri, on the right side, and on the superior part of the cubitus on the same side ; the magnitude of these two bones about the articulation was double the bigness in its natural state ; the fore arm immoveable and contracted, as also the biceps tendon. This articulation was fixed and as immoveable as if it had been anchilofated ; an ulcer which had eat through the nose, with an entire loss of one of its inferior *alæ* ; an acute pain in the region of the liver ; continual convulsions, &c.

Symptoms so violent in their degree, that one of the most eminent physicians of this metropolis, who during a long course of practice has acquired, and very justly, the highest reputation, found himself under a necessity of administering to her to the amount of an hundred and seventy-two drops of liquid laudanum ; nor could even this appease her pains. This strange complication of so many disorders frightened the physicians so much the more, as they knew the unfortunate consequences of six different courses, under the inspection and direction of so many physicians and surgeons of Paris. They had been all so unfortunate as to see the patient grow worse under their hands.

M. de Velnos, confiding in the benign quality of his remedy, ventured to try it, as encouraged by M. Petit, first physician to his serene
highness

highness the duke of Orleans, who kindly assisted, during the whole course of the treatment.

On the fifth or sixth day the patient found some relief; the ninth, the ulcer in the nose was cleansed, and ceased to suppurate; the eighteenth, the convulsive fits considerably abated, and the pain on the right side almost entirely subsided. The course was continued about two months, at the end of which no exostoses appeared; the patient walked with ease; had no more convulsive fits; the ulcer in her nose was perfectly healed; she was restored to her ordinary plight of body; the menses, suppressed for a long time, were now become regular; in short, she enjoyed a perfect state of health. She has been since again married, and has never perceived the least symptom of her old disorder.

This lady was attended a considerable time by M. Astruc, physician and professor of the faculty of Paris, and visited by M. Bercher, physician of the faculty of Paris, Messrs. Petits jun. and sen. physicians to his serene highness the duke of Orleans, and Faure de Beaufont, physician in ordinary to the king.

OBSERVATION X.

*Pox, with a considerable Ulcer in the Groin,
Shanker, Heëtic Fever, &c.*

In 1763, a native of America, about 36 years of age, had three claps in the space of six months. In the month of August, the same year, he had

a bubo. Five days after the appearance of this symptom he applied himself to a person of the faculty, whose method was not attended with success. A third course had no more effect than the two former; at length, after seven months trial of the best mercurial preparations, and numberless consultations, he committed himself to the care of M. de Velnos. This was the state of his case in the month of February, 1764: First, There was, in the right groin, an ulcer of about the length of five inches, and two inches in diameter, running from the *os pubis* to the *os ilium*; this ulcer was livid and loathsome, and filled with a corrosive matter; its edges were swelled and covered with small shankers; the muscles that were attached were divided in part, as much by the matter as by the sharpness of the instrument used. This great waste of the animal substance had occasioned many hemorrhages, which often endangered the life of the patient. Second, At the beginning of the ulcer was fixed a sinus of two fingers in diameter, and two inches in length, which pierced the thigh perpendicularly, and was buried in the flesh. Third, A groove, half a span deep and two inches long, divided the teguments, running from the beginning of the sinus to the middle of the perinæum, in a parallel to the Raphé. Fourth, A deep shanker had eat one third of the glands. Fifth, The belly was swelled, and the pubis was full of sinuous ulcers, out of which there came, through pressure a considerable quantity of frothy matter, and frequently blood. Sixth, The *os ilium* had increased, in the upper part, at least to the thickness of three inches; I say at least, because

because that thickness was perceived by feeling, though the inward edge of this bone could not be touched. Seventh, The patient was of a very lean habit, and had for four months an hectic fever. This cure was longer effecting than the former. The patient took, during four and twenty days, a dose of the syrup, as was proportioned to his case.—All the ulcers, except the sinus's, were healed in the space of two months; the sinus itself was perfectly healed, though some time after the other parts. None of the patient's complaints now remained, but a slight contraction of the thigh, that was occasioned by the cicatrices of the muscles, which would not admit of its being entirely extended; in all other respects he was infinitely better in health. It is necessary to observe, that this frightful shanker was cured without any external application.

This patient consulted, among others, Messrs. Petits sen. and jun. Anthony Petit, physician of the faculty of Paris, Faure de Beaufont, physician to the king, Caumont, physician to the company of Swiss guards, Moreau, surgeon-major of the hotel Dieu of Paris, Bourgeois, surgeon of Paris.

OBSERVATION XI.

Universal Rheumatism, and a Gleet for two successive Years, with two Shankers.

This is to certify, that having been under the care of M. de Velnos, in the month of November

ber 1766, and at that time being attacked with rheumatic pains in all my limbs, two shankers, and a dreadful gleet, which continued two years, notwithstanding divers mercurial preparations taken at different times ; all these symptoms disappeared the eighteenth day of the course, the pains entirely ceased, and I recovered my pristine health and vigour. In confirmation of which, I set my hand and seal.

Paris, Dec. 26th,
1766.

Signed BRUYERE,
Ancien guard du corps
du roy.

OBSERVATION XII.

An inveterate Scurvy from the Age of twelve Years.

These are to certify, that I put myself under the direction of M. de Velnos, having had cutaneous eruptions from the age of twelve years, accompanied with an inveterate scurvy, for which I used divers remedies at various times, for many years, without the least benefit. A short course of the vegetable syrup perfectly cured me, and I now enjoy the most confirmed state of health. In testimony of which, I have delivered to M. de Velnos this certificate, in order that he may use the same according to his pleasure.

Paris, Nov. 11th,
1767.

Signed Chevalier MACKAY,
Ancien capitain au regi-
ment Dauphin cavalerie.

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OBSERVATION XIII.

Confirmed Pox, with Palsy, in the left Arm.

LETTER to M. DE VELNOS at PARIS.

I am in duty bound, sir, to do justice to the efficacy of your syrup ; and as you require of me a certificate of the effects it has produced on me, I presume the following will suffice, since I can aver, in the face of the whole world, that it contains a most assured and indubitable fact.

I think it needless to particularize the circumstances of my disorder, which are ready to be attested from the hands of M. Bertrand, my surgeon, and M. Garat, of the king's body guard, resident at my house ; and I shall therefore pass to observe, that, according to the best of my remembrance, about a year ago, I applied to you, in order to advise whether I had strength enough left to try the success of your remedy. I was, at that time, given over by my physician and surgeon, who had pronounced my case past relief. It is certain, that my left arm had been dead a considerable time, and those gentlemen assured my family, that though I got the better of my disorder, I should never recover the use of my arm. M. Garat advised me to take your syrup, he has given you an account of its success in his letters, which I presume you have by you. Three days use of your inestimable remedy afforded me some relief ; at the end of eight days,
I be-

I began to feel the use of my fingers ; I cut the nails of the hand affected, and as the flesh was drawn back they appeared equal and pointed : I was astonished to find them, in cutting, fall in scales and dirt. At the end of twenty-five days I was as well as I could possibly desire ; my recovery was very rapid, and from that time I have prosecuted my ordinary business with the perfect use of my arm. I cannot too much extol the efficacy of your syrup, since to it (under Providence) I owe my life, as I am ready to attest before as many as you may require. I could mention two hundred witnesses of the truth of what I advance, and only wait an opportunity of convincing you with what distinguished esteem I have the honour to be

your very humble
and obedient servant,

Signed DUFOUR.

Troyes, Nov. 28th,
1767.

Countersigned BERTRAND,
surgeon.

I do hereby certify, to all whom it may concern, that the signatures Dufour and Bertrand, are the real signatures of the said Dufour and Bertrand, and that they were executed in my presence, and therefore that they may be universally produced as valid and authentic.

Troyes Nov. 28th,
1767.

Signed
MAHON DESCOURLY,
Procureur du roy.

O B S E R-

OBSERVATION XIV.

*Shankers on the Tongue, Excrescences in the Anus,
Pains in the Limbs.*

I hereby declare, that I put myself under the care of M. de Velnos, having nocturnal pains in all my limbs, excrescences in the anus, and shankers on the tongue. After consulting my physician I used M. de Velnos' syrup, which I took twelve days without intermission. In a short time I felt no more pain; the shankers on my tongue disappeared, and I found myself in perfect health. In testimony of which I have given him this certificate, that he may avail himself of the same as he thinks expedient.

Paris, Dec. 7th,
1767.

Signed DE CHAMBERTIN,
Garde du roy, compagne
de Noailles.

OBSERVATION XV.

A Gonorrhœa of twenty Years standing, Rheumatism of eighteen in the right Arm, at different Seasons of the Year, Warts upon the Gland, and several Excrescences in the Anus.

These are to certify, that I applied to M. de Velnos in the month of July this year, to undertake my cure in the above-mentioned disorders,
I from

from all which I was freed by a course of twenty-eight days. I also certify, that during the time of my being with M. de Velnos, I saw several of my comrades labouring under the same disorder, radically cured, though together with me given up by the greater part of the faculty. In confirmation of which, I deliver this certificate as a true and real testimony of the facts therein specified.

Signed Le Chevalier de CODAR,
Guard de corps du roy, compagnie de Beauveau.

F I N I S.